

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

ON *MEPHITIS OLIDA* BOITARD.

In "General Notes" of this publication (1906, p. 45) Mr. A. Howell has objected to the employment of the name *Mephitis olida* Boitard in the Check List of Mammals, and argues that *putida* Boitard is the correct one to be adopted. This last name was rejected in the work above cited because *putida* Cuvier is indeterminable, therefore has no standing and may not be employed. In support of this view of the case, reference was made in a footnote to Dr. J. A. Allen's unanswerable argument in his paper published in these Proceedings (1902, p. 66), which Mr. Howell seems to have overlooked or forgotten. Until he is able to controvert successfully Dr. Allen's criticism, *olida* Boitard for the eastern skunk is likely to stand.

—D. G. Elliot.

CHANGE OF NAME.

My attention has just been directed by Prof. Theo. D. A. Cockerell to the fact that in my "Fossil Plants of the Judith River Beds" (Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv., No. 257, 1905, p. 143, pl. XVII, fig. 6) my *Quercus montana* is a homonym of the living *Q. montana* Willd., Sp. Pl., 1805. This requires that the fossil species be given a new name and I propose for it the designation **Quercus Hatcheri**, in honor of the late Prof. J. B. Hatcher, who was present when it was collected.—F. H. Knowlton.

TYPE OF THE GENUS *PRONOLAGUS*.

In my Classification of the Hares and their Allies (Smithsonian Miscell. Coll. XLV, p. 416, June 15, 1904) I based the description of the genus *Pronolagus* on the skeleton of a hare from South Africa, No. 22,972, United States National Museum, erroneously identified as *Lepus crassicaudatus* Geoffroy and designated that species as the type of the new genus. Messrs. Thomas and Schwann (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1905, Vol. I, pp. 272-5, pl. XVI, August 10, 1905) have shown that the specimen I called *Pronolagus crassicaudatus* (Geoffroy) is an example of *Pronolagus ruddi* Thomas and Schwann, so that the type of the genus *Pronolagus* should stand as *Pronolagus crassicaudatus* Lyon (not Geoffroy) = *Pronolagus ruddi* Thomas and Schwann.—Marcus W. Lyon, Jr.